

nels 38 each 1, including a root portion having the form of a sector, over substantially more than 180°, of a cylindrical bore and which, when the member 30 has been appropriately fitted within the channel 32 at one end of a horizontal member 7, receives a respective self-tapping fixing screw, or possibly merely a localised indentation formed in the lower wall of the channel 32 as viewed in FIG. 10c by a punching or rivetting operation.

As shown in FIG. 10a, somewhat schematically, the hook formation 34 and adjoining regions of the member 30 are of a cross sectional form to fit closely within a central inner channel of the extrusion forming the upright 5 (FIG. 10a) leaving, defined between the arcuate inner surface of the hook formation 34 and an opposing arcuate surface provided by a rib 42 projecting inwardly into the inner channel of the upright extrusion, a generally cylindrical passage which receives the shank of the respective securing screw 9. The crest diameter of the self-tapping screw thread of the screw 9 is somewhat greater than that of the last-noted substantially cylindrical passage, so that the thread of the screw 9 cuts into the opposing surfaces of hook formation 34 and rib 42 defining said substantially cylindrical passage and at the same time, the screw 9 acts as a wedge to draw the member 30 radially with respect to the longitudinal axis of the gear edge member 5 and thereby the opposing free edges of the walls of the inner channel of the gear edge member 5, thereby locating the horizontal 7 firmly with respect to the upright 5. It will be noted that the member 30 has, in its opposite faces, 1 opposing grooves 46 which receive inwardly turned flanges at the free edges of the side walls of the inner channel of the upright extrusion 5. In a variant, the grooves 46, instead of being formed in the extrusion, are cut in the body of the member 30 after the latter has been cut from the extrusion, or alternatively narrow grooves formed in the extrusion may be enlarged after cutting the member 30 from the extrusion, so as to be slightly inclined with respect to the vertical, in such a way as to provide a wedging action when the member 30, attached to the respective horizontal 7, is forced into the 4 upright extrusion 5 along the axis of the latter, thereby to render the structure more secure.

As will be appreciated from FIG. 10a, the cross members 7 are substantially narrower than the uprights 5, being of substantially the same width as the inner channels of the uprights 5. The extrusion forming the uprights 5 defines, on either side of the inner channel, side channels 50 which receive, in the assembled unit, the edges of rectangular cladding sheets 52, for example of sheet plastics or the like. At the upper and lower end of each panel of unit A or B, such cladding panels 52 are received respectively in downwardly and upwardly directed channels afforded by extruded members 54, 56 described in more detail below. It will be appreciated that the cladding panels 52 are omitted in FIGS. 5 and 6 for the sake of clarity. The upper members 54 are each formed by a length cut from an extrusion of the cross section shown in FIG. 10d (see also FIG. 8). The cross section of FIG. 10d forms two side by side channels 60 (for receiving cladding panels 52 on opposite sides of the members 7) each defined by an outer wall 62, an inner wall 64 and a base 66. At the lower edges, the inner walls 64 are connected by respective webs to a central formation 68 extending downwardly therefrom. The two inner walls 64 define between them, on the upper side of the extrusion cross section, an upwardly

open channel 72. The formation 68 comprises a vertical web portion 74 extending downwardly from the junction of the side walls 64, an enlarged portion at the lower end of the portion 74 and including laterally projecting ribs 76, below which extend two arcuate formations 78 defining between them a downwardly open central channel of part-circular cross section, with a relief slot extended into the body of the formation 68 from the upper region of the part-circular cross-section channel, to allow resilient springing-apart and together of the formations 78.

It will be noted from FIG. 10c that the extrusion forming the upper cross members 7 affords an upwardly open channel 80 the side walls of which have inwardly directed flanges 82 at their free upper ends, the channel 80 having a base wall from the middle of which extends upwardly a central flange 84 which terminates in a part-cylindrical bead. The width of the formation 68, as measured between the free edges of the lateral ribs 76, is only slightly less than the spacing between the side walls of the channel 80 and is greater than the spacing between the free edges of the flanges 82. The spacing between the faces, furthest from each other, of the inner side walls 64, on the other hand, is somewhat less than the spacing between the inner edges of the flanges 82. Accordingly, the portion of the extrusion of FIG. 10d afforded by the inner walls 64, web 74 and formation 68 can be accommodated freely within the channel 80 when the upper member 54 is slid longitudinally into the channel 80 of the cross member 7 during assembly of the panel so that, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 6, for example, the base walls of the channels 60 extend over the flanges 82 and the outer walls 62 extend downwardly on the outer sides of the side walls of the channel 80, and lie, in this position, substantially in the same planes as the webs the uprights 5. When the member 54 is pressed fully downwardly into the channel 80, the part-cylindrical bead along the upper edge of the flange 84 is received as a snap-fit within the part-cylindrical channel defined by the formations 78 (FIG. 10d), whilst the bases 66 of the channels 60 engage or closely adjoin the upper surfaces of the flanges 82. By pulling the member 54 directly upwardly, the formation 68 can be disengaged from the flange 84, but such upward movement will be limited by engagement of the ribs 76 with the undersides of the flanges 82.

The dimensions of the web 74 and the portions of the extrusion of FIG. 10d directly above the outer edges of the ribs 76 are so dimensioned in relation to the flanges 82 and the spacing between the free edges of the latter that if the member 54 is drawn upwardly in the channel 80, without tilting, until the ribs 76 engage the undersides of the flanges 82, and then the member 54 is tilted laterally, as illustrated in FIG. 8, with simultaneous slight lowering of the member 54, the rib 76 which is moved uppermost by such tilting is simultaneously moved inwardly, away from the adjoining side wall of the channel 80, sufficiently to pass the inner edge of the adjoining flange 82. However, further tilting or upward removal of the member 54 is then prevented by engagement of the outer surface of the formation 78 which become uppermost as a result of such tilting with the underside of the adjoining flange 82 (see FIG. 8).

The weights of the respective parts of the extrusion of FIG. 10d and the dimensions of the web 74, are such that, in this tilted position, the member 54 will rest under gravity in the tilted position, with the flange, which connects the inner wall 64 on the lower side with